

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re U.S. Patent Application of |) |
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| ISOBE et al. |) |
| |) |
| Application Number: To be Assigned |) |
| |) |
| Filed: Concurrently Herewith |) |
| |) |
| For: METHOD FOR MANAGING DISK DRIVES OF |) |
| DIFFERENT TYPES IN DISK ARRAY DEVICE |) |
| |) |
| ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. HITA.0532 |) |

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in the above-identified patent application. A listing of documents to be published on the face of any patent granted from this application is submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449. Any other documents or information submitted for consideration by the Examiner are listed in this paper. A copy of each U.S. and foreign patent, or each publication or portion thereof listed or herein identified, is submitted herewith.

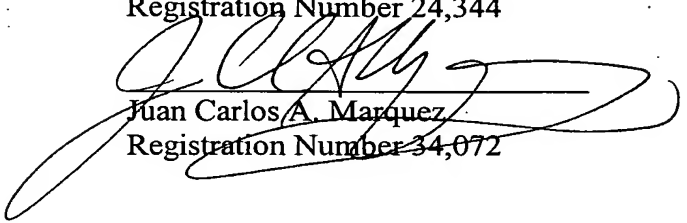
This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted with the initial filing of the application. Accordingly, no fee is due or payable at this time.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge consideration of the information provided in this paper in accordance with prescribed procedures.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 08-1480.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 25, 2004

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| Form PTO 1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant | ATTY. DOCKET NUMBER HITA-0532 | SERIAL NUMBER To be assigned |
| | APPLICANT ISOBE et al | |
| | FILING DATE Concurrently herewith | GROUP |

U.S. Patent Documents

| Examiner Initial | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLA SS | SUBC LASS | FILING DATE |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| | 2003/0135577 A1 | 7/17/2003 | Weber et al. | | | 12/19/2001 |
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Foreign Patent Documents

| Examiner Initial | DOCUMENT NUMBER | FILING DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB- CLA SS | TRANSLATION | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------|-------------|----|
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Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED | |
| <i>EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant</i> | | |